



Fact Sheet

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control • 2600 Bull Street • www.scdhec.gov • Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

Wedgefield - Stateburg Water District

Overview

As a customer of the Wedgefield – Stateburg Water District (WSWD), you have been getting notices over the last few years that your drinking water contains Ethylene dibromide (EDB) in amounts above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Since EDB was first discovered in the wells that supply the water, WSWD has worked closely with DHEC to find a solution. The source of the EDB contamination has not been located. The WSWD has agreed to eliminate the contamination within the next 14 months.

Sampling by DHEC has found that levels of EDB in the WSWD wells have recently increased significantly. The most recent samples had EDB levels 7 to 10 times higher than the MCL. Because of these very high levels, WSWD and DHEC agree that the customers of the WSWD should avoid drinking untreated tap water. Your options for obtaining safe drinking water until the contamination has been eliminated from the system are listed below.

How do I get safe drinking water?

In-home water treatment - DHEC is currently making arrangements to have in-home water treatment units available to the community at no charge. You will be notified when these units become available. Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters are the most affordable treatment units available for EDB removal and can be bought in most hardware and/or plumbing stores. If you choose to purchase a GAC filter or any other kind of in-house water treatment unit, make sure it is certified for drinking water use by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). NSF-approved GAC home treatment units can be connected directly to most kitchen faucets and cost between \$20 and \$50.

Buy bottled water – You may also purchase commercially available bottled water for drinking purposes.

What is EDB?

Ethylene dibromide (EDB) is a colorless, heavy organic liquid with a mildly sweet chloroform-like odor. EDB is mainly used in anti-knock gasoline mixtures, particularly in aviation fuel. It has also been used as a solvent for resins, gums, and waxes; in waterproofing preparations; in making dyes and drugs; and as a pesticide for grains and fruits.

Contact Information

DHEC is making arrangements for a public meeting to discuss this issue with the community. You will be contacted as soon as meeting plans have been finalized. For additional information, please contact Doug Kinard at 803-898-3543 or 803-360-3927 or the local DHEC Environmental Quality Control office at 803-778-1531.